

Claims

- [c1] 1. A multipurpose power point accessible by the occupant of a vehicle, comprising:
a generally cylindrical terminal housing having an open end and a closed end;
a center terminal, located within said terminal housing at said closed end, with said center terminal being adapted for making contact with a power consuming device inserted into said terminal housing;
at least one detent having a first end attached to said terminal housing and a second end adapted for subjecting a power consuming device inserted into said terminal housing to both radially and axially directed forces; and
an overtravel preventer, attached to an outer housing portion of said power point, for engaging said at least one detent and for subjecting said detent to a radially inwardly directed force sufficient to prevent said detent from deforming plastically in response to an opposing force placed upon the detent by said power consuming device.
- [c2] 2. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said power consuming device comprises an ign-

itor plug.

- [c3] 3. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said power consuming device comprises an accessory power plug adapted to be wired to an electrically powered device.
- [c4] 4. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing is generally cylindrical and coaxial with said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer comprising an integral formed rib extending axially along an inner portion of said outer housing such that said rib will contact said detent so as to limit deflection of said detent in response to forces imposed upon the detent by said power consuming device.
- [c5] 5. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing is generally cylindrical and coaxial with said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer comprising a simply supported, integral ribbon extending axially along, but radially separated from, said detent, and with said integral ribbon having a section profile which approximates the section profile of said detent.
- [c6] 6. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing is generally cylindrical and

coaxial with said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer comprising an integral, cantilevered ribbon extending axially along, but radially separated from, said detent, and with said ribbon having a section profile which matches the section profile of said detent.

[c7] 7. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing comprises a generally cylindrical cover which is concentric with said generally cylindrical terminal housing, with said cover having a necked down section extending axially along said at least one detent.

[c8] 8. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing is generally cylindrical and coaxial with said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer comprising a cantilevered integral ribbon extending axially along, but radially separated from, said detent, with said ribbon having an inwardly extending, integral retention tab formed on the unsupported end of said ribbon.

[c9] 9. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing is generally cylindrical and coaxial with said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer comprising an inwardly extending stop upset from said outer housing and positioned so as to prevent

outward movement of said detent beyond a predetermined position.

- [c10] 10. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 1, wherein said outer housing is generally cylindrical and coaxial with said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer comprising an inwardly extending stop upset from and partially separated said outer housing and positioned so as to prevent outward movement of said detent beyond a predetermined position.
- [c11] 11. A multipurpose power point for use by the occupant of a vehicle, comprising:
a generally cylindrical terminal housing having an open end and a closed end;
a center terminal, located within said terminal housing at said closed end, with said center terminal being adapted for making contact with a power consuming device inserted into said terminal housing;
at least one detent having a first end attached to said terminal housing and a second end adapted for engaging an ignitor plug inserted into said terminal housing; and
an overtravel preventer, attached to an outer housing portion of said power point, for engaging said at least one detent and for subjecting said detent to a radially inwardly directed force sufficient to prevent said detent from deforming plastically in response to radially di-

rected force imposed upon the detent by a combination side terminal and retention contact mounted to the side of an accessory power plug.

[c12] 12. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 11, wherein said terminal housing has two diametrically opposed detents attached thereto, with each of said detents being engaged by an overtravel preventer.

[c13] 13. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 11, wherein said at least one detent comprises a lance having a spring portion cantilevered from said terminal housing and a latch portion attached to the unsupported end of said spring portion, with said overtravel preventer being positioned so as to come into contact with said latch portion, in response to the insertion of an accessory power plug, before the spring portion has been plastically deformed by said power plug.

[c14] 14. A multipurpose power point accessible by the driver or other occupant of a vehicle, comprising:
a generally cylindrical terminal housing having an open end and a closed end, with said generally cylindrical housing adapted to serially receive an ignitor plug and an accessory power plug;
a center terminal, located within said terminal housing at said closed end, with said center terminal being adapted

for making contact with a power consuming device inserted into said terminal housing;
a plurality of detents, with each comprising a lance having a spring portion cantilevered from said terminal housing and a latch portion attached to the unsupported end of said spring portion, with said latch portion being adapted for engaging an ignitor plug inserted into said terminal housing; and
an overtravel preventer, formed integrally with a generally cylindrical outer housing portion of said power point, for engaging at least the latch portion of said plurality of detents and for buttressing said detent radially inwardly to an extent sufficient to prevent said spring portions from deforming plastically in response to outwardly directed forces imposed upon the detents by an accessory power plug.

- [c15] 15 A multipurpose power point accessible by the occupant of a vehicle, comprising:
a generally cylindrical terminal housing having an open end and a closed end;
a center terminal, located within said terminal housing at said closed end, with said center terminal being adapted for making contact with a power consuming device inserted into said terminal housing;
at least one detent having a first end attached to said

terminal housing and a second end adapted for subjecting a power consuming device inserted into said terminal housing to both radially and axially directed forces; and an overtravel preventer, attached to an outer surface of said terminal housing, with said overtravel preventer engaging said at least one detent and subjecting said detent to a radially inwardly directed force sufficient to prevent said detent from deforming plastically in response to an opposing force placed upon the detent by said power consuming device.

- [c16] 16. A multipurpose power point according to Claim 15, wherein said overtravel preventer comprises a ribbon having a first end attached to an outer surface of said terminal housing and a second end for engaging said at least one detent.